

ST. IVES (HUNTS)  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1946

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THE RIDLEY PRESS,  
ST. IVES, HUNTS.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District  
of Saint Ives in the County of Huntingdon, for  
for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Saint Ives  
Rural District Council.

*Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present to you this report  
on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the area for  
the year 1946.*

*I am,*

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

**W. R. GROVE**

B.A., M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Medical Officer of Health*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

*Medical Officer of Health :*

W. R. GROVE, M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

G. H. PHIPPS

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

W. G. MUNDAY

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### General Statistics

Population (middle 1946)	...	10,250
Area	...	45,911 acres
Rateable Value (April, 1946)	...	£48,811
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Net Product)		£201
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	3210

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	M	F	Total	
(legitimate)	87	85	172	Birth-rate per 1000
(illegitimate)	6	11	17	of the estimated
	—	—	—	resident population 18.4
Total	93	96	189	

### STILL BIRTHS

(legitimate)	0	4	4	rate per 1000
(illegitimate)	0	0	0	population 0.39

DEATHS	55	78	133	Death-rate per 1000
				of the estimated
				resident population 13.0

### DEATHS (Infants under one year of age)

	M	F	Total
Total	3	2	5
Legitimate	2	2	
Illegitimate	1	—	

There were no deaths from maternal causes

### Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1000 live births	...	26.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	17
„ „ Measles „ „	...	0
„ „ Whooping cough „ „	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	0



## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Fem.
Tuberculosis of resp. system	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Influenza	1	—
Cancer of buc. cav: & Oesoph: (m) uterus (f)	2	1
Cancer of stomach & Duodenum	4	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	5
Diabetes	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	8
Heart Disease	18	22
Other Diseases of the Circulatory system	9	7
Bronchitis	—	3
Pneumonia	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	3
Digestive diseases	—	5
Nephritis	2	2
Premature birth	1	1
Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	2	1
Suicide	—	1
Violent causes	1	1
All other causes	4	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All Causes	55	78
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### *As a comparison*

the Birth-rate for Eng. and Wales during 1946 was 19.1 per 1000

Death-rate	„	„	11.5	„
Deaths under one year	„	„	43	„

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The main concern of the department during 1946 was housing in all its aspects. The survey commenced in 1945 and it is apparent that the poorer type of cottage property has deteriorated still further.

The administration of health services in the district remained the same during the year. Co-operation between the the County Council and the District Council was maintained to the satisfaction of both Authorities. The emergency public health laboratory facilities established in this region were utilised for bacteriological examination of samples of water at regular intervals.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1 (1) WATER.—Water continued to be supplied to 12 parishes in the area by the Ramsey and Saint Ives and the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Boards. The demand shows a continual increase for agricultural and domestic use and this increase was maintained during the year. A number of applications were received from areas in those parishes which are purely agricultural in character for a supply to be provided by the Council. These applications were carefully considered by the Council and were submitted to the Council's Consulting Engineers (Messrs. Howard Humphreys & Sons) for plans and estimates to be obtained. It is possible that the revenue yield from these extensions will be insufficient to warrant initial capital cost unless the Council are able to obtain a contribution under the Rural Water Supplies Act, 1944. The following tables show the quantity of water consumed in those parishes supplied by the two Joint Boards.

	RAMSEY & ST. IVES JOINT BOARD	CHESTERTON & ST. IVES JOINT BOARD
Domestic Consumers	14,134,000 gals.	6,286,000 gals.
Industries & Farms	7,803,000 „	6,647,000 „
R.A.F. Camps	11,399,000 „	Nil
Total	33,336,000 „	12,933,000 „
Daily Average	91,331 „	35,435 „
No. of Domestic Supplies	1,402	256
No. of Industrial and Farm Supplies	369	37

The water is chlorinated by the Joint Boards and 120 samples were taken, of these 9 were considered to be unsatisfactory, but after the mains had been flushed at these points, subsequent samples were satisfactory. The samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination.

The scheme for the provision of a supply to the parishes of Hilton, Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey and Houghton and Wyton finally took shape during the year and tenders were submitted to the Council in August for the complete scheme; the Council finally accepted the lowest tender amounting to £24,024 0s. 0d. This tender was submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval, which approval was obtained early in 1947. It is not anticipated that any substantial part of the contract will be completed in 1947, but all the approvals have now been obtained and the completion of the scheme will depend on the supply of materials and labour.

Samples of water from shallow wells and other private sources of supply were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination.

Eleven samples were taken and in 7 cases the results of the examination indicated that the water supply was unsafe for drinking purposes.

The occupiers of the houses concerned were informed and directed to boil all water used for drinking and domestic purposes. In one case four cottages taking the supply were connected to the Council's main after statutory notices had been served on the owner ; in the remaining 6 cases no mains supply was available, as they are situated in those parishes which will be supplied when the new scheme for Hilton and the Hemingfords is completed.

Additional houses continue to be connected to the mains supply, and the number will undoubtedly increase as the necessary materials become more readily available.

# SUMMARY OF WATER SUPPLIES IN EACH PARISH

Parish	Source of Supply	Quantity	Quality	No. of houses in Parish	No. of houses connected to main	no. of metered supplies
Bluntisham-cum-Earith	Public mains	Adequate	Good	352	269	98
Broughton	"	"	Good	76	43	10
Bury	"	"	Good	113	87	20
Colne	"	"	Good	142	83	57
Fenstanton	"	"	Good	269	199	34
Hemingford Abbotts	Private wells	"	Poor	126	—	—
Hemingford Grey	{ Public mains	"	Good	298	57	3
	{ Private wells	"	Poor			
Hilton	Private wells	Insufficient	Poor	84	—	—
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	Public mains	Adequate	Good	202	91	21
Houghton & Wyton	Private wells	"	Poor	200	—	—
Oldhurst	Public mains	"	Good	34	20	11
Pidley-cum-Fenton	Public mains	"	Good	116	82	14
Somersham	( with exception of Fen Area) Public mains	Adequate	Good	436	218	48
Warboys	( with exception of Fen Area) Public mains	Adequate	Good	591	394	63
Wistow	( with exception of Fen Area) Public mains	Adequate	Good	95	78	18
Woodhurst	( with exception of Fen Area) Public mains	Adequate	Good	70	37	9



1 (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Joint Sewerage Scheme approved in principal by the St. Ives Borough and the Rural District for the Borough and the parishes of Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Fenstanton, Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Houghton and Wyton, made little progress during the year.

The Firm of consulting engineers originally asked to prepare a preliminary report on the scheme, were unable to proceed with the detailed plans and specification for a considerable period. The Joint Committee thereupon decided to ask Messrs. Howard Humphreys & Sons, to carry out the proposed scheme for the Borough and the six parishes concerned, and to proceed with the necessary plans and specifications.

The Ministry of Health are prepared to hold any public enquiry that may be necessary before the preparation of the detailed scheme. Up to the end of the year no further progress had been made.

The Council, in addition to the Joint Scheme, asked Messrs. Howard Humphreys & Sons to carry out a preliminary survey of all the other parishes in the area with the object of preparing schemes to cover the remainder of the district.

The usual difficulties in the disposal of sewerage in the district were dealt with as far as possible, but the wet Autumn aggravated the situation, especially in those parishes that have a clay sub-soil.

2 RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Great Ouse Catchment Board is the responsible Authority for the river Ouse which flows through the district. No complaints of any cases of industrial or sewage pollution, due to circumstances arising in the district, were reported.

The Council, as the Authority responsible for the awarded water courses in the area, carried out maintenance and cleansing operations on a number of Parish Brooks. The majority of this work was carried out by the Huntingdonshire War Agriculture Executive Committee by contract. Whenever possible the 50% grant available towards the cost of the work was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture.

In November the Council gave very careful consideration to their future Brooking Policy, and decided that although the present arrangements may have been satisfactory some years ago, this was not the case now, as land was derated. Most of the cost of Brooking Schemes, therefore, had to be paid for by the ordinary ratepayers of the district, whereas the benefit was to agriculture. It was also considered that although certain water courses were the responsibility of the Council under the



Parish Awards, most of the large schemes placed before the Council in recent times were in the nature of land drainage, which was not the responsibility of the Council. The Council, therefore, decided to repudiate liability for Parish Brooks when land drainage is involved.

**3 (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—A comparatively large number of applications were received during the year for the conversion of Pail Closets to Water Closets. In a number of cases the applicants were granted building licences either to convert an existing room into a bathroom and lavatory, or to build an additional room for this purpose.

The Housing Survey revealed that two cottages were sharing sanitary accommodation, and that at 10 other cottages it was unsatisfactory. Two additional Pail Closets and 10 new ones were erected, after service of informal notices on the owners concerned.

**3 (2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

(a) **NIGHTSOIL COLLECTIONS.**—The collection of nightsoil from the Parishes of Bluntisham-cum-Earith, Somersham and Warboys continued during the year, the work being carried out by Contractors.

Owing to labour difficulties and the lack of suitable land for disposal, the collections were very irregular.

The Council gave further consideration to the existing arrangements, and decided to purchase a Karrier Bantam 7 cubic yard Refuse Collection Vehicle, fitted with a removable 300 gallon tank for the collection of nightsoil; the vehicle to be utilised for both Refuse and Nightsoil collections. The vehicle was not delivered in 1946 so the existing arrangements for carrying out the work by Contract were continued.

(b) **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**—The refuse collection scheme which was commenced in 1945 for the collection and disposal of house refuse by direct labour, worked satisfactorily during the year.

A weekly collection was carried out in every parish with the exception of Broughton, Bury, Houghton and Wyton, Oldhurst, Wistow and Woodhurst, and it is anticipated that these 6 parishes will also be given a weekly collection before the end of 1947.

The amount of refuse collected continued to increase as more householders availed themselves of the service, and the capacity of the vehicle was taxed to the utmost to avoid unnecessary journeys to the tipping points.

The refuse was disposed of at two tips, clean soil being used to cover the refuse.

Owing to the scattered nature of the district it is impossible to weigh each load, but test weighings were carried out, and these indicate that approximately 1,000 tons of materials were collected and tipped during the year.

(c) SALVAGE.—Waste Paper, Textiles and household bones were collected at the same time as refuse, and were kept separate, and subsequently sold as salvage.

The materials are sorted and baled at St. Ives where the scheme for the joint use of premises for this purpose with the Borough of St. Ives continued to the mutual advantage of each Council. The refuse collection staff sorted and baled the materials.

During the year approximately 32 tons of materials were salvaged and sold at controlled prices and realised the sum of £208.

The following table shows the weights of the more important materials collected.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrts.
Scrap iron ...	4	12	0
Paper ...	21	16	3
Bones ...	2	2	1
Textiles ...	3	6	1
Total Weight	31	17	1

### 3 (3) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of Inspections for all purposes	...	...	...	...	2432
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#### (a) HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	894
Reinspections ...	117
Number of Preliminary Notices Served ...	96
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	69
Number of Statutory Notices Served ...	4
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with ...	4

The total number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Survey is set out later in the report, but a number of the preliminary notices served arose out of these inspections. Owing to the shortage of labour and materials very little has been done during the year to maintain existing cottage property in a satisfactory state.



All the refinements required to make these houses fit in all respects for human habitation were reluctantly omitted from the notices served, which were strictly confined to urgent works required to prevent either the deterioration of the structure or the abatement of conditions that were prejudicial to the health of the occupants.

Even then a number of notices remained outstanding at the end of the year, as although the owners were willing to carry out the work, neither the necessary materials nor the labour was available. It was considered that the issue of Statutory Notices in these cases could serve no useful purpose, as the Council themselves were experiencing the same delays in the maintenance work required on their own houses.

Four Statutory Notices requiring the provision of a piped supply of water, which was available from the Council's Main were served during the year, and the work was thereupon carried out by the owner.

(b) INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factory Inspections ...	56
Number of written notices served ...	4
Number of occupiers prosecuted ...	Nil

The bakehouses in the area were maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year. A new floor was provided at one Factory following the service of a preliminary notice on the occupier.

With few exceptions the factories in the area are small, and in a number of cases the occupier and his family are the only workers employed.

(c) INSPECTIONS UNDER REGULATIONS, ETC.

Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	129
Butchers' Premises ... ..	153
Slaughterhouses ... ..	11
Meat from outside District ...	22
Preserved Food ... ..	121
Offensive Trades ... ..	12
Shops ... ..	25
General Public Health Visits ...	146
Schools ... ..	4
Pumps, Wells ... ..	22
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	33
Dumps, Tips ... ..	122
After Infectious Diseases ... ..	23
Drains ... ..	112
Evacuation ... ..	44
Salvage ... ..	134
Petroleum Stores ... ..	11
Site Inspections ... ..	5
Miscellaneous ... ..	81



Refuse Collections ... ..	III
Camps ... ..	5
Disinfestations ... ..	19
Requisitioned Property ... ..	18
Ponds ... ..	2

(c) The visits and inspections carried out by the Inspectors during the year under the various Acts and Regulations which are administered by the department, amounted to a total of 1,365.

A number of minor infringements were dealt with informally, and it was found unnecessary to undertake proceedings against any person, as there were no repeated violations of the Regulations applicable to any particular case.

The table emphasises the comprehensive nature of the work which showed little variation from those set out in the Annual Report for 1945.

The visits in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme, naturally shows a substantial decrease over the preceeding years, and up to the end of the year no reports were received regarding "Squatters," but the next report will contain particulars of cases that have since arisen in the district.

The visits in connection with the notifications of infectious diseases remained at a low figure, and the total for both disinfection and infestation only amounted to 42.

3 (4) CAMPING SITES.—No new licences were issued during the year for the use of movable dwellings in the area, but a small number of caravans were re-licensed for a further period of one year.

One caravan was found to be overcrowded, but after representations had been made to the owner, the overcrowding was abated, and subsequently the occupants moved from the district.

A number of trailers and tents are stationed in the river-side villages for short periods in the summer, but no camping sites were licensed during the year.

3 (5) SHOPS & OFFICES—(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT—(7) SWIMMING BATHS.—There is nothing of interest to report under the above headings.

3 (8) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Only one complaint of infestation due to bed bugs was reported and confirmed during the year and this case was completely cleared after treatment.

Supplies of D.D.T. became available early in the year and was used both as a powder and a spray.

Proprietary insecticides containing up to 5% D.D.T. were found to be effective, and "Zaldecide" was mainly used for this purpose.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

			Total cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	8	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...	14	—	3
Erysipelas	...	...	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	23	—	—
Measles	...	...	5	—	—
Jaundice	...	...	9	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 103 children under 5 years, and 3 between 5-15 were immunised by the County Medical Officer of Health's Staff, and 8 over 5 received a secondary or reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-pul		Pulmonary		Non-pul	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	1
35	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			13	5	3	0	2	1	0	1

HOUSING

- 1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-
- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

... .. 688
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose,

805

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		...	...	699
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				751
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		...	...	102
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		...	...	296
2	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers			
		...	...	69
3	Action under Statutory powers during the year :-			
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...		0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :			
	(a) By Owners	...	...	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners			0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-			
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied			4
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :			
	(a) By Owners	...	...	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...		0
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-			
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	3
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-			



(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
Housing Act, 1936—Part iv.—Overcrowding :-	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	9
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	44
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	12
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

### HOUSING (General)

The preliminary scheme for the erection of 44 houses which was commenced in 1945, progressed but slowly in 1946, and at the end of the year only 18 new houses had been completed, 4 of which were in Bury, 6 in Bluntisham and 8 in Warboys.

However, sites were acquired in other parishes and building operations were pressed forward. Despite the difficulties, by December, a further 56 houses were under construction, and the Council were endeavouring to erect new houses in every possible parish.

The Council decided that they would not apply for either temporary or permanent prefabricated houses, so the houses now in course of erection are all of the traditional type and contain either 3 or 4 bedrooms.

The housing survey continued during the year, and a further 669 houses were inspected and recorded. The houses were classified into four categories according to their condition, and it was found that 15% of the houses inspected were considered to be unfit for habitation, and 42% were perfectly satisfactory. The remaining 43% require minor repairs and alterations to bring them up to standard.

The number of unfit houses recorded in the parishes surveyed, includes those houses that were represented to the Council as unfit in 1939.

It has, of course, been impossible to deal with these condemned houses up to the present, but it is anticipated that some at least will be demolished, as the tenants are rehoused in the new houses now in course of erection.

One overcrowding case was relieved during the year, the family concerned being rehoused in a new Council House. The actual situation with regard to overcrowding remains obscure in respect of those parishes that have not been surveyed, but the housing survey has not as yet revealed any substantial increase in the amount of overcrowding in the area that can be termed permanent.

### HOUSING SURVEY

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY INSPECTIONS

Parish	No. Inspected	Categories of Houses (The categories are described below)			
		1	2	3	4
Somersham	398	149	93	82	74
Colne	133	82	20	19	12
Bluntisham- c-Earith	352	153	67	71	61
Warboys	363	139	79	94	51
	1246	523	259	266	198

#### CATEGORY

#### CONDITION OF DWELLINGS

- 1 Satisfactory in all respects.
- 2 Minor defects only.
- 3 Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
- 4 Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Registered Cowkeepers	...	90
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	...	92
„ „ Registered Retailers	...	29
„ „ Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	... ..	129
„ „ Contraventions found	...	13
„ „ Contraventions remedied	...	9
„ „ Premises found to require cleansing	... ..	8

„	„	Premises found to require structural alteration ...	2
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Three applications for the registration of new premises for the production of milk for sale by wholesale, were received and granted by the Council, one of these applicants produces T.T. milk, the other two undesignated milk.

There are 10 accredited producers and 6 attested herds in the area, but practically all the “Tuberculin Tested” Milk produced from these latter herds is sold by wholesale.

Three applications were, however, granted for the sale of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk by retail and an ever increasing quantity of “Tuberculin Tested” and “Pasteurised” Milk is being sold within the district.

There is one Pasteurising plant in the area, and a licence in respect of this plant authorising the sale of the milk under the Special Designation “Pasteurised” was renewed at the beginning of the year.

The plant is designed for the short time high temperature process, and is automatically controlled. Ten samples of “Pasteurised” Milk were taken from this plant and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. In every case the milk satisfied the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946, and successfully passed the Phosphatase and the Methylene Blue reduction tests.

In addition 5 samples of “Tuberculin Tested” (Pasteurised) Milk were submitted for examination under the regulations, and the results were just as satisfactory.

The reciprocal arrangements made with the County Council, who are the authority responsible for the administration of the Heat Treated Milk (Prescribed Test) order, continued during the year. The samples of “Pasteurised” Milk taken by the County Council during the year from the same plant were all satisfactory.

In general, milk producers maintained their premises in a satisfactory manner and when the occasion arose, The Hunts. War Agricultural Executive Committee were notified in order that their Milk Advisory staff could assist, and suggest any improvement that would be helpful to the producer concerned.

The County Council, as usual, kept the Department fully informed of any changes that occurred in the register relating to producers of Accredited and Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses ...	11
Number of Butchers' Shops ... ..	14
Visits to Butchers' Shops ... ..	142
Total weight of Meat condemned and destroyed ... ..	128 lbs



The Slaughterhouses in the area are all privately owned, and were only utilised for the occasional slaughter of pigs for private individuals, after the issue of permits by the Ministry of Food.

Any casualty animals slaughtered in an emergency are removed to a Government controlled slaughterhouse situated in the Borough of St. Ives.

The meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was inspected in butchers' shops and subsequently destroyed.

The routine inspection of other foods continued, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption, and were either destroyed or released for animal feeding.

78 Tins of Meat	...	235 lbs.
30 Tins of Vegetables	...	22 lbs.
5 Tins of Fruit	...	5 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	43 lbs.
52 Tins of Milk	...	49 lbs.
31 Tins of Fish	...	26 lbs.
Bacon	...	36 lbs.
Flour and Cereals	...	33 lbs.
Wet Fish	...	84 lbs.

(c) ADULTERATION.—The County Council administer the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the adulteration of Food. No special circumstances arose where it was considered that action could be taken by the Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—A suspected out-break of Food poisoning was investigated at Hilton, following the distribution of the contents of a food parcel received from overseas, to children at the School.

Samples of the fruit cake, cheese and chocolate which had been eaten by the children affected, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination. The report showed that the foods contained *no* organisms of the food poisoning, enteric or dysentery groups.

In addition specimens of fæces of the 16 children affected were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the reports indicated that no organisms of these groups were present. A probable explanation of the trouble is that the rich fruit cake may have upset the children, who after practically a life-time of rationing were unable to digest it as easily as bread and margarine!



100-100  
100-100  
100-100  
100-100